



“ How do you know whether your children are learning what they need to know? ”

- Watch them during everyday activities in your classroom.
- Gather samples and/or photos of children's work during everyday activities.
- The collection of work samples is connected to a scope and sequence so that “good enough” progress can be measured.

“ What should the work samples include? ”

- Collect or photograph children's work, activities or interactions to document their progress toward important curriculum targets.
- Record or gather additional information to make the samples more useful (e.g., quotations).
- Plan ahead to collect lasting evidence of children's progress.

“ How do you go about collecting work samples? ”

- Plan how often to collect work samples to track children's progress.
- Include the date, name(s), activity if pertinent, and any assistance received.
- Keep it simple—use labels pre-printed with children's names.
- Keep a camera handy for photographing children's work, activities and interactions.

“ How do you use the work samples you collect? ”

- Organize the samples using a portfolio system, notebook or binder.
- Put the information into your program's curriculum system or computerized assessment system.
- Analyze samples so that you know whether children are learning what they need to know.
- Use the information to improve children's learning. Decide what and how to teach.

